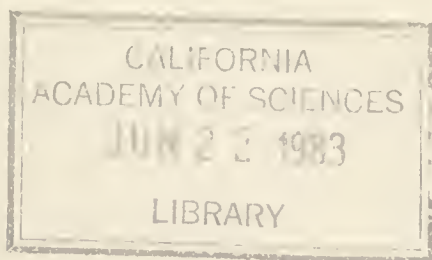
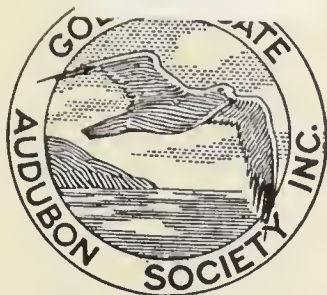


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July-August 1983

Number 7

Field Trips Calendar

See the June *Gull* for details on the following trips:

Saturday, July 2—San Mateo County Coast.

Saturday, July 9—Beginners' Trip to Rodeo Lagoon.

Sunday, July 10—Chimney Rock, Point Reyes.

Friday-Sunday, July 15-17—Lassen Volcanic National Park. This is the annual GGAS family camping excursion. Join the Murphy family for a weekend of birding and hiking at Lassen. The more serious birders will meet on **Friday and Sunday mornings** by the store at the Manzanita Lake Campground at **6:15 a.m.** We will spend two to three hours birding the lake and nearby area. After a quick breakfast we will meet again at **10:30 a.m.** at the store for a hike through some of Lassen's beautiful back country on Friday and will bird along the park road on Sunday. The hike will be about three miles in length and leisurely paced for the convenience of small children and the leaders. Bring a bottle of your favorite wine to our campsite on **Friday evening after 8 p.m.** for our second annual wine tasting. Be sure to bring your own glasses and chairs; we will provide corkscrew and campfire.

On **Saturday**, we will meet at **7:30 a.m.** and caravan north to Burney Falls, Fall River Valley and Baum Lake. This will be an all-day excursion of about 100 miles. We are planning to have lunch at Lake Britton so bring swim wear and a towel. We will spend two to three hours there,

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so if you don't plan to swim bring a book. We will end the day at Uncle Runt's Restaurant (gourmet?- center for the Lassen region).

In the past years we have seen Willow, Hammond's and Dusky Flycatcher, Black Swift, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Townsend's Solitaire, Mountain Bluebird and most of the warblers which breed in the mountains.

Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared to pack a lunch and liquids. Sun-tan lotion, a hat, mosquito repellent and warm clothing for cold nights may also be needed. Plan to stop at our camp any evening for a campfire. You will need cups and folding chairs so we can huddle together and try to stay warm.

From the Bay Area drive north on I-5 to its junction with Hwy. 44 in Redding. Go east on Hwy. 44 to the northeast entrance of Lassen. Camp-facilities are available at Manzanita Lake. Lodging is available about 15 miles north of the park at Doan's Hat Creek Resort, Old Station (916-335-2359). Other information can be obtained from the park headquarters, Mineral, CA 96063. Be sure to check at Doan's or the park bulletin boards for our campsite number and further details or changes in the schedule. Leaders: Dan and Joan Murphy (564-0074).\$ (✓)

Saturday/Sunday, July 23/24—Lee Vining Canyon, Mono Lake and Tioga Pass. On **Saturday**, meet at **7:30 a.m.** at the Big Bend Camp-ground three miles west of Lee Vining on Hwy. 120. **Sunday's meeting place will be decided on Saturday.** From the Bay Area, take your favorite route to Yosemite National Park. Take Hwy. 120 over Tioga Pass and down the east side of the Sierra to the town of Lee Vining or to one of the Forest Service camps west of the town. Motels in Lee Vining include: Best Western Lake View Motel (714-647-6543), Gateway Motel (714-647-6467) and Murphey's Motels (714-647-6316). We will bird in Lee Vining, Mono Lake and other areas. Be prepared to caravan to the various birding spots. Leader: Jon Zablackis (527-2083).\$ (✓)

Saturday, August 13—San Mateo Coast. Meet at Pescadero Beach parking lot at the intersection of Hwy. 1 and Pescadero Rd. at **8 a.m.** Please carpool to this point if possible because parking is limited. We will bird at Pescadero in the morning and Año Nuevo in the afternoon. If you wish to join the group for the afternoon only, meet us at the Año Nuevo parking lot at **1 p.m.** Bring lunch and a light jacket; the weather can be cool along the coast. Brown Pelicans, Heermann's Gulls and Black Oystercatchers are probable. We may also see Harlequin Ducks, Black Swifts and Bank Swallows at Año Nuevo. Leader: Ted Chandik (493-5330).\$ (✓)

Friday-Sunday, August 26-28—Backpacking Trip to Lassen Volcanic National Park. We will backpack in three miles and spend two

nights camped by a lake near a large meadow. We should see mixed flocks of warblers and other songbirds that summer in Lassen, resident birds of the mountains and perhaps some migrating shorebirds. We will be in beautiful country! Participants will be responsible for their own gear and food, although some cooperative meals may be arranged. For details call Robin Pulich (848-3594). This trip is limited to 12 persons. Leaders: David Rice and Robin Pulich.\$ (✓)

Saturday, September 17—Bus Trip to Monterey Bay Area. We will ride in the comfort of a chartered bus to many of Monterey's finest birding areas, including the municipal pier, the shoreline to Point Pinos and the Carmel River mouth. Our leader will be Ted Chandik. The bus will depart from the East Bay at **6:30 a.m.** and make stops in San Francisco and Palo Alto. The fare will be \$23 per person.

Reservations will be given to the first 35 respondents. Send a **self-addressed, stamped envelope and check** made payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society to the GGAS office, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206 Berkeley, CA 94705. **Be sure to include your phone number with your reservation.** Details of the trip will be sent with an acknowledgement of your check. Refunds cannot be made for cancellations after Sept. 1 unless the planned capacity for the trip has been reached.

Saturday/Sunday, September 17/18—Yosemite National Park. See the September *Gull* for details of this trip.

There will be a trip to Mt. Pinos for condors around the end of September. See the September *Gull* for details.

Trips marked with \$ are for parks or other sites which require an entrance fee.

Note from the Field Trips Committee—Beginners are always welcome on GGAS field trips. Leaders and participants are eager to introduce newcomers to this activity which we all enjoy. From time to time the committee will plan trips especially for beginners. These trips will generally go to nearby areas to see resident species.

Saturday, September 10—Beginners' Trip to Coyote Hills Regional Park. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the visitors' center. Take the Jarvis Ave. exit from Hwy. 17 west to Newark Blvd.; turn right and follow the signs to the park. Bring lunch and liquids. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. This is a unique park with salt marsh habitat. Leader: Gene Hull (525-6893). (✓)

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-9053 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222). *The office will be closed during the month of August.* —FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

April Observations — through May 25

SEABIRDS

The very warm ocean surface temperatures and lack of northwest wind-generated upwellings continue to affect the breeding seabirds. Almost every Farallon breeder has been hit hard. "Several of the most abundant species, including Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorant, Pigeon Guillemot, Common Murre and Cassin's Auklet are barely trying to breed this year and may not fledge any chicks at all. The gulls have been eating a lot of garbage, commuting daily to the Bay Area dumps and restaurants. This is turning out to be unquestionably the poorest breeding season PRBO has witnessed in the last 15 years." (Bob Boekelheide, Point Reyes Bird Observatory).

Three Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were seen off Monterey May 14 (DLS, et al.) and two were off Bodega May 21 (TC, AB, BDP, et al.). Most surprising was one in the channel of Bodega Harbor May 21 (BDP, AB, TC, et al.). Xantus' Murrelets showed a similar pattern: one off Monterey May 14 (DLS, et al.), two off Bodega and one inside Bodega Harbor May 21 (AB, BDP, TC, et al.). The Bodega sightings were preceded by only a single record (last year). A Tufted Puffin off Bodega May 21 (TC, AB, BDP, et al.) was the only report away from the Farallones.

SHOREBIRDS

This winter's general scarcity of shorebirds became most obvious during the period of spring migration and departure in late April and May. One worries about an unknown but pervasive environmental cause of these low populations and wonders if they were peculiar to the Bay Area or were a continental phenomenon. The silver lining to this cloud is that a scarcity of common shorebirds makes it easier to find any rare shorebirds that may be present.

Two Lesser Golden-Plovers at Spaletta Ranch could have wintered there or were migrants. Three Wandering Tattlers at Emeryville Marina May 10 (TCo) were a concentration not expected inside the Bay except in fall. Breeding plumaged **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found twice in Alameda County: on Oakland Airport May 12 (SFB, LDC) and at Hayward Regional Shoreline May 21-22 (BR). As more observers learn this plumage and make critical identifications, enough spring migrants should be found that the species loses its boldface print in spring, as it already has in fall, when juvenal plumaged birds are found. Two Baird's Sandpipers along San Lorenzo Trail near Hayward Regional Shoreline May 4 were followed by a Pectoral Sandpiper there May 15-22 (all BR). I would not be surprised if both of these sandpipers were actually rarer in spring than the less conspicuous Semipalmated. The most spectacular

shorebird was undoubtedly the **breeding-plumaged male Ruff** at Horseshoe Pond near Drakes Beach May 18 (GF)! Unfortunately, the Ruff departed during the initial observation.

OTHER WATERBIRDS

For their first Bay Area nesting record, Eared Grebes certainly made it dramatic, with 52 active nests in Lake Pitasan, Alameda County, with some chicks hatched by late May (AE). Three adult Little Blue Herons and a Cattle Egret were in Alviso heronry May 13 (RL). Presence does not establish actual nesting, but it is likely that Cattle Egrets are breeding somewhere in the area because individuals and groups in breeding condition have been seen repeatedly: along Durham Road in Fremont 14 were present in late April (fide TG) and seven (half of 14 nesting pairs?!) continued through May 24 (CR, JM, TG). Eight were near Hayward Regional Shoreline May 11 (BR) and a single was just south of Alviso May 18 (SG).

The Ross' Goose on Stafford Lake remained at least through May 11 (GF, GM). A pair of Blue-winged Teals at Willow Creek, Sonoma County, May 20-22 (DB, PC) represented either late migrants or local breeders.

The **three adult Little Gulls** were all still at Stockton Sewage Ponds April 30 (VE) and one remained May 8 (GM, MM). Several Least Terns at West Pittsburg in early May were suspected of nesting locally (BR, et al.). Two Black Terns flew past Hayward Regional Shoreline May 17 (BR).

A pair of **Black Skimmers** visited the Alameda area for the second consecutive spring. From May 2 to 12 one Skimmer associated with a large flock of courting Caspian Terns on Oakland Airport (LF, LDC, SFB). From May 13 to 17 a pair of Skimmers frequented Alameda South Shore, retreating to a rain pond on Bay Farm Island during high tides or when disturbed (ED, JM, DJ, mob). On May 18 one was back on Oakland Airport (LF). Neither bird was seen again in May. The obvious conclusion is that only one pair was involved. More exciting is the conclusion that this pair was most likely the same one as last year's, in which both male and female were banded! Apparently nobody this whole month noticed whether this pair was banded (!), but my only photo that shows a foot proves that the male, at least, was banded! Black Skimmers (the same pair?) reappeared at Moss Landing shortly after the Alameda pair disappeared (fide DR). Let's hope Skimmers colonize both areas.

WESTERN LANDBIRDS

May's waves of migrant warblers, flycatchers, sparrows, etc., hit SE Farallon May 1-6 and May 19-20 (PRBO). A Lesser Nighthawk was at

Point Reyes Lighthouse May 3 (BF, et al.). A female Costa's Hummingbird strayed to Cheney Gulch, Bodega Bay, May 8 (JG, KC) and a nest apparently of this species was found in the usual location for adults in lower Del Puerto Canyon May 1-22 (PG). Despite the clear, warm weather that we think of as poor for insectivores on Point Reyes, a major wave of scarce migrant western Empidonax flycatchers arrived there May 19 (DE). Single Gray Flycatchers were found at three separate locations and there were "numerous" Hammond's and Dusky Flycatchers (!). One of each of these species was found the next day (JE). **Great-tailed Grackles** continue at San Francisco Aquatic Park (mob).

EASTERN LANDBIRDS

SE Farallon had received no vagrant landbirds through May 20 (PRBO), but the May 19-23 wave brought assorted easterners to the mainland. A **Least Flycatcher** was identified at Point Reyes Lighthouse May 20 (JE). **Eastern Phoebe** is almost exclusively a late-fall and winter vagrant, but one has inhabited the bridge at the end of Salmon Creek Rd. west of Bodega since May 8 (JG, KC, NC, mob). One observer believes that this bird may have been present both of the two previous years (NC). I reserve judgment, but will become a believer if it returns next year.

Our fourth **White-eyed Vireo** (all in spring, three on Point Reyes) was at the Lighthouse trees May 19 (DE). A Tennessee Warbler was along Dillon Beach Rd. May 22 (JE). A Northern Parula visited Mt. Davidson, San Francisco, May 3 (AS) and a singing male was at Five Brooks May 24 (WG). Very rare in spring was the singing male **Blackburnian Warbler** May 21 in Santa Cruz (BP). The Lighthouse trees hosted a Black-and-white Warbler May 23 and an American Redstart was at Nunes Ranch that day (both DT). An adult American Redstart was in Santa Cruz May 21 (BP). Difficult to see on the mainland, an Ovenbird appeared at Lighthouse May 20 (JE). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found as follows: Nunes May 19 (DE), Point Reyes Willows May 19 (DE), Nunes May 23 (DT, et al.) and Sunnyvale (fide TG). A Clay-colored Sparrow was singing at Fish Docks May 10 (RS).

Observers: Stephen F. Bailey, Alan Baldridge, Dennis Beall, Kurt Campbell, Ted Chandik (TC), Laura D. Collins, Tom Condit (TCO), Pam Conley, Nancy Conzett, Elizabeth Dickey, Art Edwards, David Edwards, Vernon Elmore, Jules Evens, Leora Feeney, Gary Fellers, Bud Fry, Tim Gates, Wilma Ghiorso, Phil Gordon, Steve Granholm, Jeff Greenhouse, Dick Johnson, Hayes Johnson, Roy Lowe, Marie Mans, many observers (mob), Gloria Markowitz, Joseph Morlan, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO), (Farallon report thanks to Bob Boekelheide),

Barbara Palfalvy, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Frank A. Pitelka, Cliff Richer, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Don Roberson, Debra Love Shearwater, Anne Smith, Rich Stallcup, Ron Thorn, Dorothy Tobkin.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology,
University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720
(phone 548-9507 or Joseph Morlan at 524-7421)

GGAS Wildlife Art Show

CAN YOU LEND A HAND?

The Wildlife Art Show Committee needs help during the summer months to prepare the Fall Festival of Wildlife Art for exhibition in September.

Thus far 25 works of art have been donated to the show (exhibition and benefit drawing). Art Show committee members must now tackle the task of matting, framing and labeling the work for public display. The goal of framing 20 prints can only be attained through the hard work of many enthusiastic and energetic volunteers.

If you would like to help with framing, publicity or ticket sales, please call the GGAS office — 843-2222. You need only volunteer as your schedule permits.

A reminder to both East Bay and San Francisco businessmen and women: if you would like to host a portion of the show with beautiful wildlife art by prominent wildlife artists from throughout the U.S. during the months of October or November, please call the GGAS office now. The Fall Festival of Wildlife Art will not only draw attention to Audubon's fund-raising effort but it will benefit your business as well!! Share your lobby, office, gallery or ?? . . . with Roger Tory Peterson, John Ruthven and Robert Bateman.

PRIZES — SURPRISES

Wildlife art (prints and posters that are fine art quality) will be awarded to the top five ticket sellers. Stop by the GGAS office to see the prizes (they are gorgeous) and then sign up to sell tickets and win one through ambitious sales. Prize prints and posters depict snowy owls, endangered zebras, orcas, pandas and puffins and more!! (each with a retail value in the \$25 range).

WILDLIFE ARTISTS

It is not too late to donate wildlife/nature art to the benefit drawing. Your contribution will receive good visibility in addition to helping Golden Gate Audubon! All art mediums are welcomed as long as the general theme reflects wildlife/nature.

Conservation Notes

OUR WATER

The Clean Water Act is up for "reauthorization" this year. That means that the Congress will be reviewing the Act, as it does periodically, and deciding whether to revise it or not. Will your representative and senators vote for amendments that weaken water quality standards and extend deadlines? Will they continue pushing for improvements that will force industry to treat its toxic wastewaters before discharging them into our public sewers and waterways? Will they work to protect our remaining marshes, bays and other kinds of wetlands? And will they establish laws that will reduce the pollution that enters our rivers and streams as run-off from urban streets, farms, mining and construction sites?

Industrial lobbyists and representatives of national conservation organizations, like Audubon, are pleading their cases on Capitol Hill. You can help tip the balance. Mail from voters back home can make a difference. To convince your representative and senators that the polls are right (i.e., that 94% of Americans want an Act as strict or stricter than it is now) and to find out where they stand on Clean Water, write them today. (U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510; U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515)

SECTION 404

Of particular interest is Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Mention should be made of opposing amendments which would limit the 404 permit process to waters used for interstate or foreign commerce. Such an amendment would exclude 85% of the nation's wetlands.

GILL NETTING TRAGEDIES

Thousands of seabirds, mostly Common Murres, are being killed off the California coast by gill netters. At least two sea lions have also died in nets. This is the same problem we faced last year when tens of thousands of birds died in gill nets. Dead birds littered our beaches from Sonoma to Monterey counties. You can help prevent a similar occurrence. Express your concern to your assemblyman and senator. Let them know you want legislation that will protect seabirds and marine mammals from needless slaughter.

For your convenience this issue of the *Gull* includes an insert which you may remove, tear in half, giving you two mailers ready to sign, stamp and send.

..... fold here

20¢

STAMP

Assemblyman

State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblyman

I am appalled that seabirds and marine mammals are being killed in gill nets again this year. It is time for action to put an end to the practices of some fishermen who are responsible for the death of thousands of Common Murres and other seabirds. I agree with the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, local fishermen and concerned conservationists who urge you to establish suitable protective guidelines for our marine birds and mammals. Please support AB 153.

Very truly yours,

Dear Senator

I am appalled that seabirds and marine mammals are being killed in gill nets again this year. It is time for action to put an end to the practices of some fishermen who are responsible for the death of thousands of Common Murres and other seabirds. I agree with the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, local fishermen and concerned conservationists who urge you to establish suitable protective guidelines for our marine birds and mammals. Please support AB 153.

Very truly yours,

..... fold here

20¢

STAMP

Senator

State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 95814

Condor Discovery

Radio-tracking of two California Condors fitted with tiny radio transmitters continues to bring important new information that can help guide the effort to save the species from extinction. The latest find — a complete surprise to scientists of the Condor Research Center — is that all five remaining immature California Condors wintered in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains northeast of Bakersfield. This is an area previously believed to be farther north than the normal limits of the species' range. One of the most important aspects of the radio-tracking program is identification of the habitat upon which the Condors depend. These birds range so widely over virtually impassable country that without the radios it was exceedingly difficult to follow their movements.

Refuge Guide Available

A new pocket-sized guide to the country's 413 National Wildlife Refuges is available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The guide and map includes a list of major public uses on each refuge, addresses and other information. The *Visitor's Guide to the National Wildlife Refuges* is available for \$2.25 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 (specify stock number 024-010-00529-7). It is also available at the USGPO Bookstore in the Federal Building, San Francisco.

An Outing for the Kids

A new permanent display of penguins opens June 26 at the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park. A specially designed home in the Steinhart Aquarium takes the place of the Hawaiian reef tank and an adjacent display and provides about 400 square feet of living space for 15 well-dressed black-footed (or jackass) penguins.

Thirteen of the penguins are immature, measuring about 15 inches tall; two are adults. All were purchased from zoos and aquariums around the country. Because there are strict regulations on penguins from the wild, the Academy will show only captive-bred penguins. We hope, in years to come, these birds will breed and become a self-sustaining exhibit. Nesting sites are being built into the display in anticipation of future chicks and a mirror installed at one end of the tank creates the feeling of great numbers of birds, a condition preferred by romantically inclined penguins.

There is a general misconception that penguins are restricted to the

icebergs and frozen glaciers of Antarctica. Actually, most penguin species live along the warmer shores of Australia, South America and various oceanic islands. The Academy display will be unique in housing these penguins with the fishes and invertebrates with which they normally live. Black-footed penguins, scientific name *Spheniscus demersus*, do not require refrigeration. In the wild they live off the coast of South Africa and most closely resemble the species off South America and the Galapagos Islands.

The Academy is located on the Music Concourse in Golden Gate Park and is the home of the Steinhart Aquarium and Morrison Planetarium.

The Back Yard Birder

Once again I am packing my suitcase, noting the rolling of eyes as I stow my binoculars into precious space. As the sole "serious" birder in my family I am accustomed to such incredulous stares. In the past I have caved in to pressure and regretted not having my birding gear at hand. It matters not if you are in New York City, Paris or Africa; once you are aware of "foreign" birds you feel compelled to get a closer look.

The numbers of serious birders; i.e., those with field glasses and guides, is large. In addition there are large groups of "closet" birders. You know the type: upon confessing you are interested in birding they begin picking your brains about birds they have seen and know I've won a few converts by encouraging such souls. I live with three of these types and despite themselves they have become excellent observers. Although they would never admit to being active birders, they are not above blurting out with triumph, "I saw a Great Blue Heron today!"

Last year we toured an area of France. I was sorry I hadn't taken the time to study a European field guide (these are available through the library system as well as in our own Audubon Society library). Along the way, however, I made notes of birds' colors, behavior and habitat and was delighted to be able to identify all but one of them when I arrived home. It was rather like unraveling a mystery, but I would advise doing the reverse. It's more fun to know what you are seeing.

Here are some interesting facts about birders:

- Birdwatching is a male-dominated activity. However, since the 1960s the sexual balance is swinging the other way.
- In America a group of birders is likely to consist of mainly middle-aged or older people; in Europe, birding hot spots are dominated by young people. In Britain and Scandinavia, e.g., natural history interest is widespread among kids. This interest fades as they mature, while in America the tendency seems to be the reverse.

There are all types: those who are simply interested in adding to their life lists and will go anywhere to do so; those who spend hours on a certain species' behavior; those who feed and enjoy having birds about their yard; those who pursue their interest to the extent of becoming more educated in the field of ornithology. No matter where you may fit in, as stated in *The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds*, the following probably applies to all of us: "For most people, birding is a hobby and an addiction to it is considered incurable and carries with it a lifetime guarantee against boredom."

—MEG PAULETICH

Photographic Workshop

Larry Ford, for 15 years photographer at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, now resides at Mono Lake. As a naturalist/photographer he has worked with endangered areas such as the Southern California coastal wetlands and with such endangered species as the California Least Tern, Lightfooted Clapper Rail and the Desert Bighorn Sheep. His work has been exhibited and published extensively. He is now preparing a photographic natural history book on the Mono Basin.

This workshop will explore the spectacular shoreline of Mono Lake, the science-fiction tufa towers and fragile sand tufas set in a world of towering Sierras and recent volcanos. At this time of year the explosion of wildflowers and the homecoming of tens of thousands of raucous California Gulls infuse the majestic grandeur of the area with new life.

The workshop will include instruction in photographic technique, composition and use of light and texture. There will also be discussion of the natural history of the area to enable you to portray this unique area in an effective and personal manner. A full moon will enhance the weekend's photographic experience. Schedule: Three days of instruction and field work will be Friday through Sunday, July 22-24. An informal gathering will begin things on Thursday evening, including introductions, refreshments and an orientation lecture. A special feature is the Friday morning photography session, which will be shot with Ektachrome (E6) film; the film will be processed overnight and the results will be discussed at the Saturday lunch. (The course fee includes the processing of the roll of Ektachrome.)

The fee is \$60, payable to Tahoe Sierra State Parks Association. Proceeds from the workshop support the interpretive programs at Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve through the nonprofit association. Write Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, P.O. Box 99, Lee Vining, CA 93541.

Early Fall Birding Classes in San Francisco

Our free evening bird classes offered through the Galileo-Marina Community College Center will begin in mid-August because of the new calendar adopted by the college. Each class consists of a weekly two-and-one-half hour illustrated slide-lecture stressing identification, status and habitats of North American birds. The instructor is Joe Morlan, compiler of our weekly recorded "Northern California Rare Bird Alert" and co-author of *Birds of Northern California*. There is a policy of open enrollment which permits any student to enroll at any time during the 18-week semester. Just go directly to the classroom, room 254, Marina Middle School, corner of Fillmore and Bay streets on the day and hour listed below. Free parking is in the school lot off Bay Street on the east side of the building.

Ornithology I is for those with no previous birding experience. It is an introduction to the biology and identification of common Bay Area birds and meets Tuesdays starting August 16 — 7-9:30 p.m.

Ornithology II is for those who already know most of the common birds but who wish to sharpen their birding skills. It systematically covers land birds and meets Wednesdays starting August 17 — 7-9:30 p.m.

Ornithology III is a continuation of Ornithology II. It is an in-depth presentation of water birds and meets Thursdays starting August 18 — 7-9:30 p.m.

Optional series of eight morning bird walks will be arranged on week-ends for a fee of \$30, but all evening classes are expected to be free. Field trip details will be announced in class. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them. For more information call the college at 931-3595.

Pacific Flyway Waterfowl Festival

During the weekend of July 16-17, the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association will hold its 13th Annual Pacific Flyway Wildfowl Festival at the Red Lion Motor Inn, located just off Highway I-80 at Arden Way, Sacramento.

This exhibition of waterfowl art and sculpture will occupy both floors of the ballroom wing of the Red Lion, with the top floor given over entirely to wildfowl paintings and sculptures, surrounded by livelier objects. Special events will include an art-in-action demonstrations, a continuing series of decoy contests featuring a head-whittling contest for carvers and a decoy-painting contest for artists.

Because PFDA is the largest group of knowledgeable decoy enthusiasts in the West, visitors are encouraged to bring along their own heir-contestants come from all parts of the West. Last year 3,000 visitors attended the opening at the Red Lion. Admission of \$2 covers the weekend. Children under 12 are admitted free.

Board Meeting Highlights

On May 23, the Board of Directors held its last meeting of the 1983 fiscal year. The main item on the agenda was the annual review of the Statutes and Bylaws of the Chapter.

The Statutes specify the detailed day-to-day procedures of the Chapter. They specify when General Meetings are to be held, how elections are conducted, how financial matters are to be handled and the like. The Bylaws are the more general, permanent rules of the Chapter. A change in the bylaws requires a vote of the membership at the annual meeting.

At the Board meeting, a number of changes were made in the statutes to remove individuals' names and replace them with generic titles so that revisions aren't required every year. Other changes included increasing the bonding insurance of the officers. Only one Bylaw change was proposed; it will be discussed at the June meeting.

Nikki Spilane was appointed to the board of Audubon Canyon Ranch, filling one of four directors' seats allotted to Golden Gate.

A budget for 1983-84 was proposed by the Finance Committee and adopted by the Board.

—TRUDI JACKSON

Speakers Needed

Do you enjoy speaking to groups? Are you knowledgeable about Bay Area birds? Would you like to donate an occasional afternoon or evening to speak to an organized group about the bird life of the Bay Area? Requests are received occasionally at the GGAS office for speakers. They cannot always be filled because there is currently no pool of volunteers from which to draw. Presentations have already been requested for fall programs by both a garden club and a Coast Guard Auxiliary Group.

Usually groups want a rather general presentation that is not too technical but not so elementary that it is uninteresting. Speakers may use their own slides or they may use slides from the GGAS library. Programs normally last 30-40 minutes with a period afterwards for questions. Speakers usually set up an informational table with Audubon magazines, brochures and copies of *The Gull*.

Does this sound like something for which you might like to volunteer? If so, give the GGAS office a call — 843-2222.

Class Reminder

Dr. Stephen F. Bailey's Summer Coastal Birds class at Albany Adult School begins Thursday, July 7. There may also be space available for Steve's Condor and Shorebirds Weekend August 13-14. For information on either event, see your June *Gull* (p. 93) or call Steve (548-9507).

Eighth Annual Convention WFO

The Western Field Ornithologists will hold their convention September 29 through October 3 in Santa Cruz. GGAS members are welcome to attend. For information write or phone Debra Love Shearwater at P.O. Box 7440, Santa Cruz, CA 95106, (408-425-8111). Pelagic trips, owling, other land trips, lectures and a banquet are planned.

Beginning Bird Carving Classes

Spend a summer Saturday in the country and learn the basics of bird-carving (the only folk art indigenous to North America). Participants will need only a "whittlin'" knife to complete either a black-capped chickadee or a black-bellied plover. Carving, painting and finishing techniques, patterns, tool sharpening and much more will be covered in the all-day workshop.

Each session is limited to six participants so that each student (adults only) will have the advantage of personalized instruction. Two Saturday sessions will be offered: July 30 and August 6, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Cost for the workshop is \$22 with an additional \$5 materials fee. You are advised to register early to insure a reservation.

Learn the fine art of birdcarving this summer — a beautiful handcarved bird in the hand may indeed be worth two in the bush!! For a complete course summary and more detailed information send an SASE to: Hillary Hulen, 2369 Morrison Lane, Suisun, CA 94585. (707-864-0821). Suisun is 45 minutes from the East Bay and one hour from San Francisco.

Organic and Otherwise Gardeners

Copies of *Getting the Bugs Out, A Guide to Sensible Pest Management in and around the Home*, published by National Audubon Society, are now available at the GGAS office. Stop by and pick up a copy of this booklet or send a 6x9 self-addressed, stamped manila envelope (37¢ postage) and request a copy. Information is provided on how to handle pest problems such as ants, mosquitos, aphids, mealybugs, scales, mites, rats and much more. Also included in this booklet is information on guidelines for selection and application of certain pesticides and proper disposal of unused pesticides.

Library Additions

Due to popular request the library now has a copy of *Gulls, A Guide to Identification*. This book may only be checked out for two-week periods so that many GGAS members will have the opportunity to read it.

Other additions for summer reading:

Gulls, An Ecological History

Guide to Bird Finding West of the Mississippi

A Field Guide to the National Parks of East Africa

Birders' Guide to Southern California

Complete Guide to Bird Feeding

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The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. to Minnie Groshong, Corresponding Secretary, Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705-1179. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Corresponding Secretary.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

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THE GULL

July-August 1983

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) 843-2211

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$25 per year (individual); \$32 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$6 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$15 per year. Senior citizen individual \$17, senior citizen family \$19. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

***The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**